

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) Item of footwear ~~(1)~~, which is intended for sporting use, ~~in particular motorcycleing,~~ comprising:

- a first rigid shell which defines a body ~~(2)~~ which is intended to receive ~~the~~ a foot of a user and which extends in an extension direction ~~(8)~~, said first rigid shell including an area defining a housing on one lateral side of said body,

- a second rigid shell which defines an upper ~~(4)~~ which is intended to receive the leg of the user and which extends substantially in an upright direction ~~(10)~~,

- an articulation ~~(6)~~ which connects the body and the upper, said articulation allowing the upper to rotate relative to the body in a transverse direction ~~(12)~~ which is substantially perpendicular to the extension direction ~~(8)~~ and the upright direction ~~(10)~~, in order to allow flexion of the foot of the user,

- a stop means for limiting limiter that limits the rotation of the upper ~~(4)~~ relative to the body ~~(2)~~ in the transverse direction ~~(12)~~ within a maximum rotation range, said stop ~~means~~ limiter comprising:

- a first stop means limiter comprising a first flexion element ~~(32a)~~ which is connected to the body and a second flexion element ~~(32b)~~ which is connected to the upper, one coming into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the upper ~~(4)~~ relative to the body ~~(2)~~ in the transverse direction ~~(12)~~ in a ~~first~~ flexion rotation direction,

- a second stop means limiter comprising a first extension element ~~(34a)~~ which is connected to the body and a second extension element ~~(34b)~~ which is connected to the upper, one coming into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the ~~upper (4)~~ upper relative to the body ~~(2)~~ in the transverse direction ~~(12)~~ in a ~~second~~ an extension rotation direction counter to the ~~first~~ flexion rotation direction,

- damping means ~~(14)~~ having an inactive state when the upper and the body move relative to each other within a normal rotation range, which is not zero and which is strictly included within the maximum rotation range, so that the damping means are active only when the upper and the body move relative to each other between the normal rotation range and the maximum rotation range, said damping means comprising:

- ~~first damping means (16, 18, 20)~~ a flexible plate which has a first end which is connected to the upper and a second end which moves freely within the normal rotation range and which comes into abutment with the housing of the boot between the normal rotation range and the maximum rotation range to which

produce a ~~couple~~ force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second ~~stop~~ flexion elements ~~of the first stop means,~~ and

- ~~second damping means (16, 18, 22) which~~ to produce a ~~couple~~ force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second ~~stop~~ extension elements ~~of the second stop means,~~

said item of footwear being ~~characterised in~~ configured so that the maximum rotation range in the transverse direction ~~(12)~~ extends over from 50 degrees to 70 degrees and the normal rotation range in the transverse direction ~~(12)~~ extends over from 30 degrees to 50 degrees and is substantially centred relative to the maximum rotation range.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~thin~~ flexible plate ~~(16)~~ is connected to said ~~shell~~ ~~(4)~~ upper near the articulation ~~(6)~~.

4. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 2 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~thin~~ flexible plate ~~(16)~~ has a curved portion ~~(44)~~ which extends around the articulation ~~(24, 26)~~.

5. (currently amended) ~~Item of footwear according to claim 4, characterised in that it comprises~~ Item of footwear, which is intended for sporting use, comprising:

- a first rigid shell which defines a body which is intended to receive a foot of a user and which extends in an extension direction,

- a second rigid shell which defines an upper which is intended to receive the leg of the user and which extends substantially in an upright direction,

- an articulation which connects the body and the upper, said articulation allowing the upper to rotate relative to the body in a transverse direction which is substantially perpendicular to the extension direction and the upright direction, in order to allow flexion of the foot of the user,

- a stop limiter that limits the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction within a maximum rotation range, said stop limiter comprising:

• a first stop limiter comprising a first flexion element which is connected to the body and a second flexion element which is connected to the upper, one coming into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction in a flexion rotation direction,

• a second stop limiter comprising a first extension element which is connected to the body and a second extension element

which is connected to the upper, one coming into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction in an extension rotation direction counter to the flexion rotation direction,

— damping means having an inactive state when the upper and the body move relative to each other within a normal rotation range, which is not zero and which is strictly included within the maximum rotation range, so that the damping means are active only when the upper and the body move relative to each other between the normal rotation range and the maximum rotation range, said damping means comprising:

• two flexible plates which each have a first end which is connected to the upper and a second end which moves freely within the normal rotation range and which comes into abutment with the boot between the normal rotation range and the maximum rotation range to produce a force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second flexion elements, and to produce a force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second extension elements,

said item of footwear being configured so that the maximum rotation range in the transverse direction extends over from 50 degrees to 70 degrees and the normal rotation range in the transverse direction extends over from 30 degrees to 50 degrees and is substantially centred relative to the maximum rotation range

wherein said two ~~thin~~ flexible plates ~~(16, 18)~~ which are arranged symmetrically relative to a centre plane (P) which is defined by the extension direction ~~(8)~~ and the upright direction ~~(10)~~, said ~~thin~~ two flexible plates being connected ~~(36)~~ to each other at ~~the connected end (16b, 18b) thereof~~ a respective first end.

6. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that the first damping means (16, 18, 20) and the second damping means (16, 18, 22) are each~~ wherein the flexible plate is active over a rotation range in the transverse direction ~~(12)~~ of from 5 to 20 degrees.

7. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~thin~~ flexible plate ~~(16)~~ has a curved portion ~~(44)~~ which extends around the articulation ~~(24, 26)~~.

8. (new) An item of footwear, which is intended for sporting use, comprising:

a first rigid shell which defines a body which is intended to receive a foot of a user and which extends in an extension direction,

a second rigid shell which defines an upper which is intended to receive the leg of the user and which extends substantially in an upright direction,

an articulation which connects the body and the upper, said articulation allowing the upper to rotate relative to the body in a transverse direction which is substantially perpendicular to the extension direction and the upright direction, in order to allow flexion of the foot of the user,

a first stop limiter comprising a first flexion element which is connected to the body and a second flexion element which is connected to the upper, one coming into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction in a flexion rotation direction,

a second stop limiter comprising a first extension element which is connected to the body and a second extension element which is connected to the upper, one coming into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction in an extension rotation direction counter to the flexion rotation direction,

a one-piece removable damping element having first and second free ends and an intermediate portion between said first and second free ends, said intermediate portion being connected to said upper and including said second extension element, each of said first and second free ends comprising a flexible plate which moves freely within a normal rotation range and which comes

into abutment with the boot between the normal rotation range and a maximum rotation range to produce a force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second flexion elements and to produce a force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second extension elements.